Truckee fall festival has events for kids, adults

Tahoe Donner’s annual Fall Festival celebration will be Oct. 14 from 11am-5pm at Northwoods Clubhouse.

Now its eighth consecutive year, this annual harvest festival features a full day of seasonal-themed events and activities. Admission is free with the option to purchase food, drinks and participate in certain activities.

There will be an expansive pumpkin patch and maze, barbecue, seasonal beers, art and craft vendors, plus live music and performances by local entertainers. Kid activities include pony rides, a carnival area, bounce house, caramel apple decorating, pumpkin carving, face painting, trampoline bungee jump, and much more.

New this year, Wild Things, leaders in animal education and conservation, will present two educational presentations bringing spectators up close and personal with a variety of rescued wildlife.

Dog owners are invited to bring their four-legged friends to participate in the popular doggie dip event taking place at the clubhouse pool. Dogs must be on leash when not in the pool area.

5-year sentence in stabbing

at Stateline casino



Christopher Calder

A Bay Area man is going to prison for stabbing his friend at Harveys in 2014.

Christopher Calder, 33, of San Francisco stabbed Timon Sung of Novato in the abdomen after the two had been arguing about the level of noise in their hotel room.

Calder's attorney had hoped his client would be able to go to a drug and alcohol rehab program. The judge said five years in prison better fit the crime.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Art contest all about recycling

The Nevada Recycles program's statewide recycled art contest is designed to increase Nevadans' awareness and interest in recycling.

Entrants must be Nevada residents and projects must be

composed of used recyclable materials. Submission of an entry form and photos of artwork are due Oct. 22.

There will be cash prizes for first, second and third place in five categories: kindergarten-grade 5, grades 6-8, grades 9-12, class project, and adult.

Materials that can be used include, but are not limited to, tires, electronics, appliances, plastic bags, bottles, batteries and aluminum cans. Fastening materials may include tape, glue and/or string.

In 2016, Nevada's recycling rate was 22.4 percent. Based on residential and commercial sector data, Nevadans (including the influence of the tourist population) throw away about 5.5 pounds of trash, per person, per day. That's approximately 3 million tons of trash that enters a landfill each year.

Winners will be announced prior to America Recycles Day, which is Nov. 15. More information about the contest, along with submission guidelines, is available **online**.

Calif. housing legislation won't soon bring down costs

By Angela Hart, Sacramento Bee

California lawmakers this year took historic action to address what one housing economist says is the state's most serious problem: unaffordability.

"Over the past 30 years, we've made it very difficult to build

new housing and wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of house prices or rents, to the point it has grown into a crisis. It’s the single biggest problem California faces,” said Ken Rosen, a professor at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business and chair of the Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics. “If we don’t solve this problem, the economic impacts over the next five to 10 years will be devastating.

“Companies will move out. Young people won’t be able to afford to stay here. As people retire, they’ll move, and California will no longer be the Golden State,” Rosen said.

Democrats in the Legislature – and one Republican – have advanced to Gov. Jerry Brown a package of housing bills that seek to stem the bleeding. Through a spokesperson, Brown said he supports each of the 15 bills, which provide new funding for low-income housing development, seek to lower the cost of construction, fast-track building and restrict the ability of cities and counties to block new development.

Read the whole story

Time to apply for Soroptimist grant

Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe has money to give away.

SISLT’s goal is to fund quality projects that serve clearly identified needs of women and children in the South Shore community. The group will consider new programs, improvements and enhancements to current programs as well as supporting programs that have been proven effective in bettering the

lives of women and children in the area.

Applications will be available Oct. 1 and are due Nov. 15. The grant application, criteria and instructions may be **downloaded here**.

All of SISLT's grant funding comes directly from the organizations' largest annual fundraiser, An Evening of Food and Wine Tasting. This year's event will take place at the MontBleu on Nov. 10.

Movie tells the story of ocean changing lives

To some, the ocean is a fearsome and dangerous place. But to others, it's a limitless world of fun, freedom and opportunity, where life can be lived to the full. A documentary presented by Patagonia and directed by Keith Malloy, "Fishpeople" tells the stories of a unique cast of characters who have dedicated their lives to the sea.

The film investigates the universally transformative effects of time spent in the ocean.

While "Fishpeople" features surfers, it's not actually a surf film. Instead, it's a documentary that explores the lives of six people who have been transformed by the sea in completely different ways: professional surfers Matahi Drollet and Dave Rastovich, deep-water diver Kimi Werner, open-ocean swimmer Lynne Cox, photographer Ray Collins, and youth worker Eddie Donnellan.

Doors open at 6:30pm Oct. 19 at Alpenglow Sports in Tahoe

City. Tickets are $7. Cold beers will be served and donations benefit the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Talk to focus on Tahoe's geology

Have you ever wondered how Lake Tahoe was formed, why there are so many alpine lakes around here, or what all those strange rock formation are?

Dave Schnake, a Tahoe Rim Trail Association board member and crew leader, and trained geologist and geochemist, will give the low down on Tahoe geology next month. He also answer questions, and maybe even tell you about those weird rocks.

The free talk will be at the Incline Village Library on Oct. 10 from 6:30-8pm.

Elite athletes bond as they rise above everyone else

By Kathryn Reed

PARK CITY, Utah – It's more than training, dedication, drive, determination, athleticism and skill. It's about believing you are better than everyone else. That is what often sets a gold medal Olympian apart from others.

It’s not that these select athletes don’t have their doubts – even on game day – but it’s the persistent confidence in themselves that keeps them going.

Mikaela Shiffrin admitted this week she gets nervous before most races. Her mom is a calming influence.

In nearly the same breath, though, she wasn’t about to back down from her earlier claim that she could compete in five disciplines in the 2018 PyeongChang Games – and medal in them. The World Cup season that starts next month will help determine what events she will compete in in February.

She earned a gold in slalom at Sochi, Russia, in 2014; the youngest athlete in history (age 18) to do so. On the World Cup circuit last season, including at Squaw Valley, she was dominating the slalom and giant slalom courses.

Shiffrin along with more than 100 athletes are in Park City this week as part of the annual Team USA media summit.



Multiple generations – in athletic terms – make up the U.S. ski and snowboard team. From left are, Squaw Valley’s Julia

Mancuso, Laurenne Ross, Jackie Wiles, Chloe Kim of Mammoth Mountain, Mikaela Shiffrin, and Kelly Clark of Mammoth. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Another common thread is they are having fun. Yes, being a professional athlete (the Olympics are long past being about amateurs) is a job, but, it's so much more. For the most part these men and women started out in their sports like anyone else. It might have been something mom and dad introduced them to, or friends were doing and they wanted to join.

Sometimes it was natural ability that pushed them along, or sibling rivalry, or wanting to keep up with or be better than a friend.

Joss Christensen and McRae Williams grew up together in Park City. Both hope to be on the freeskiing team that goes to South Korea in a few months. On Sept. 26, though, it was obvious their friendship and the camaraderie they have with other guys is what helps keep them motivated. It's not often teammates can talk about how the other's mom drove them places in middle school.

Believing in each other is another motivating factor. If they aren't No. 1, they want their teammate and friends to be.

Maddie Bowman of Meyers, along with Maggie Voisin and Devin Logan all compete in the same event – halfpipe skiing. Bowman brought the gold back to Tahoe in 2014; in particular to Sierra-at-Tahoe, her home resort.

The three sat next to each other Tuesday. It was obvious theirs is a genuine friendship. They admitted to being exuberant when the others are in the pipe – they want to share in each other's successes. It some ways it's like being a team in an individual sport.

As with many sports, there comes a point when an idol becomes a colleague. Chloe Kim remembers when she was about 8 and for

the first time saw Kelly Clark at Mammoth – where they both snowboard. Kim was giddy, Clark was encouraging. Today they are teammates. Kim couldn't compete in Sochi because of age restrictions. South Korea would be Clark's fifth Olympics.

"Hopefully, my ceiling becomes her floor," Clark said of Kim and their respective achievements and places in history.

Opinion: Is California polarizing the rest of America?

By Joe Mathews

America is terribly polarized.

And it's all on account of California.



Joe Mathews

The trouble is not merely that California itself is such a politically polarized place. Or that California contributes to the many causes of polarization: partisan media, cultural atomization, large-scale political fundraising, technological change, economic anxiety, and income inequality.

No, the artichoke heart of the matter is that California is simply too big, too exceptional, and too 21st-century to fit an America governed by 18th-century rules and mid-20th-century nostalgia.

The chief way in which California fuels polarized national elections is paradoxical: We divide America not because we are divisive, but because we balance out the country culturally and politically. California is a large progressive check on a conservative country, making America a 50-50 nation in matters political.

But America's political system is simply not set up to work in such a narrowly divided polity. The United States is famously a system of checks and balances, in which governance requires big majorities and broad consensus. One path to consensus is a strong—and currently elusive—ethic of bipartisanship. The other reliable way to achieve consensus is to have one dominant political party that can make changes easily; the minority party, rather than obstructing, knows that it can't win and thus has more incentive to cooperate.

As political scientist Frances Lee shows in "Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign," the country produced more compromise from 1933 to 1981, when Democrats dominated Congress and presidential elections usually produced landslide victors. But in the late '80s and early '90s, as California transformed into a Democratic stronghold, the dynamic shifted. There hasn't been a presidential landslide (in which the winner got more than 70 percent of electoral votes) since 1988. And party control of both the House and Senate has flipped several times.

Because elections are so close, American politics has become so relentlessly competitive as to be dysfunctional. To win in this system, parties magnify their differences at the expense of governing, and exploit every tiny advantage, from election procedures to the redistricting process.

“When party control seemingly hangs in the balance,” Frances Lee writes, “members and leaders of both parties invest more effort in enterprises to promote their own party’s image and undercut that of the opposition. These efforts at party image making often stand in the way of cross-party cooperation on legislation.”

This dynamic explains polarizing behavior by both parties—and creates two deep grievances involving the Golden State.

The first is the complaint that California is a great nullifier. Many Americans simply can’t accept the power of California’s huge population, wealth, culture, and technology to frustrate efforts to enshrine their old-fashioned bigotries in national policy. It makes America even madder that we’re not at all sorry about our exceptionalism. But so what? To quote the famously pithy Austro-Californian philosopher and statesman Arnold Schwarzenegger, “Everybody pities the weak. Jealousy you have to earn.”

The second grievance is California’s own. The rickety, old American Constitution routinely hamstrings our democratic preferences. The 2016 election made this plain: We voted in record numbers for Hillary Clinton, who won the national popular vote by nearly 3 million votes, but saw our choice nullified by the Electoral College, which makes the votes of people in a lightly populated state like Wyoming three times more valuable than our own ballots.

The House of Representatives gives outsize power to rural voters in other states, and the Senate gives California the same two senators as the 49 lesser states. My fellow Californians, the next time some American apologist defends the country’s constitutional structure as anything but a conspiracy against California, look them in the eye and say: “North and South Dakota, dude?”

Since California stands at the heart of the problem, there are

two ways to address American polarization. The first and better way is through democratic reform. Let’s elect the president by the popular vote, and replace Congress with a 21st-century parliament, in which one state’s huge size doesn’t count against it.

In such a system, you could keep the checks and balances. One party, the Democrats, would dominate Congress and the presidency and be able to govern.

But if the Constitution remains inviolate, then the United States would be far more governable if California left the union. America would be far poorer but Republicans would dominate most elections and be the clear governing party.

For now, however, the country is in a stalemate. The rest of America won’t surrender the excessive representation that it has. And California won’t bow to an anti-democratic America that nullifies our values.

If the United States is ever going to cure its polarization, something will have to give: The American Republic. Or California.

Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zócalo Public Square.

With 220 languages spoken in Calif., courts face an interpreter shortage

By Maura Dolan, Los Angeles Times

Federal law enforcement began investigating California’s courts seven years ago after receiving complaints that two Korean-speaking women in Los Angeles had been denied court interpreters.

Courts in other states also were examined and faulted. Along with California, they began working to comply with U.S civil rights law, which bars discrimination based on national origin. Failure to act meant the possible loss of federal money.

But nowhere has the task been so challenging as in California, the most linguistically diverse state in the nation.

Read the whole story